

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 have been cancelled. New claims 25-28 have been added. Support for this new claims is found, for example on page 3 of the application as filed (WO 2004/048577). No new matter has been added.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

The examiner rejected claims 1-3 as being incomplete for lacking essential steps. Claims 1-3 have been cancelled. New claim 25 includes the following steps: "(a) providing a glutathione transferase polypeptide; (b) measuring the steroidal isomerase activity of the polypeptide in the presence and absence of a test compound; and (c) identifying the test compound as a candidate therapeutic agent for the treatment of cancer if the steroidal isomerase activity of the polypeptide is less in the presence of the test compound than in the absence of the test compound." These steps are specific and include a final step related to the preamble of the claim. Claims 26-28 depend from claim 25. In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The examiner rejected claims 1-3 as anticipated by Johansson et al. (2001) and Johansson et al. (2002). The present claims 25-28 are drawn to a method for identifying a candidate therapeutic agent for treatment of cancer. Neither Johansson et al. (2001) nor Johansson et al. (2001) describes the cloning of does not teach or suggest that inhibitors of the steroid isomerase activity of GST are candidate therapeutic agents for the treatment of cancer. In addition, claim 28 specifies certain candidate inhibitors. Neither Johansson et al. (2001) nor Johansson et al. (2001) appear to describe such inhibitors. In view of the foregoing, the cited references cannot anticipate the pending claims.

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Serial No. : 10/534,998
Filed : November 9, 2005
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Attorney's Docket No.: 13425-169US1 / BV-1095 US

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Respectfully submitted,

Date: 30 July 2007

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